## **County Links**



Rep. Miller talks to seniors at Piedmont Health SeniorCare in Burlington about the threats to Medicaid and Medicare.



Rep. Brad Miller and Rep. Howard Coble present a check to Linda Massey, Chair of the Alamance County Board of Commissioners, representing \$500,000 in federal funding they secured to upgrade Alamance County's Emergency Communications System.

**Alamance Emergency 911 Communications** - Under the current VHF communications system, there are areas within the county that are without coverage which causes a safety issue

for many system users and health and/or safety issues for those in need of emergency service. Alamance County will be partnering with the North Carolina State Highway Patrol and will use their existing VIPER system as the backbone for the country's new emergency communications system. In order for Alamance County to convert to the 800 MHz system, Alamance County will need to renovate its 911 Emergency Communications Center (C-COM), upgrade and purchase equipment for C-COM, and purchase radios and equipment for the users of the system.

Labcorp and Alamance Community College Partnership – As one of the co-chairs of the Community College Caucus, Congressman Miller is an advocate for community college issues on Capitol Hill. The Congressman supports partnerships like the one he visited between Labcorp and Alamance Community College (ACC) at the Powell Lab Facility in Burlington. Alamance Community College strives to meet the educational needs of the students while helping to drive workforce development for employers. Partnerships such as these are helping to drive North Carolina's transition to a new economy with progressive industries.

Headquartered in Burlington, Labcorp is one of the largest employers in both Burlington and Alamance County with a total North Carolina workforce of 4100 employees. The company provides a diverse array of lab evaluation services for medical providers, including drug testing, genetic testing, lab workups, research and drug clinical trials. By providing training facilities, faculty, and job placement to ACC's biotech program students, Labcorp creates an environment of growth and prosperity for the company as well as Alamance County residents. The company is constructing a new headquarters building in the heart of downtown and is committed to preserving the historic buildings in existence, creating a green space which will bring people back to the downtown area.

GoldToe Moretz Plant Rapid Response Team Meeting, Burlington, NC – GoldToe Moretz has played a role in Alamance County as a sock manufacturer and significant employer since the mid-1980s. The company announced in early January 2008 that they would be closing U.S.

operations and transferring production to Mexico and Asia. This closure will impact approximately 430 workers in Burlington.

As a result, Governor Mike Easley deployed a Rapid Response Team from the State Department of Commerce to provide support as the company and its employees make this difficult transition. Congressman Miller is proud to have a staff member actively involved in Rapid Response Team Meetings to ensure that the federal parts of the process work seamlessly with the state government in meeting the needs of these displaced workers. The Rapid Response Team is tasked to coordinate the transition for the company and its employees by providing assistance such as educational opportunities, extended unemployment benefits and other support services. Much of the funding for these programs is supplied by the federal government. As our economy continues to change, we must make sure that our workers have access to programs like Trade Adjustment Assistance and educational programs so they can get back to work at jobs that are comparable to the ones that are gone.

"Giving law enforcement the necessary tools to do its job is the least we can do," said Rep. Miller.